

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

OMB-01 /087 W

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R 231605 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1365

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USNATO 1842

USEC MISSION BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2359

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NL

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL CALL ON MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND  
WATERWAYS THEO WESTERTERP

1. I PAID A COURTESY CALL ON MAY 22 ON THEO WESTERTERP, AN OLD FRIEND, IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND WATERWAYS IN THE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT. REGARDING THE LATTER, WESTERTERP, WITH HIS CHARACTERISTIC FRANKNESS, SAID THAT NO ONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO PIN A LEFT- WING TAG ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THERE WERE A FEW EXTREMISTS AMONG THE 16 MINISTERS AND 17 STATE SECRETARIES COMPRISING THE DEN UYL CABINET, INCLUDING HIS OWN STATE SECRETARY, DR. VAN HULTEN ( PPR) WHOM WESTERTERP DEPICTED AS SOMETHING OF A WILD MAN. WHAT MATTERED, HE EMPHASIZED, WAS THE PRESENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF SENSIBLE, MODERATE POLITICIANS LIKE DEN UYL, VAN DER STOEL, VREDELING AND, BY IMPLICATION, WESTERTERP HIMSELF. HE SAID THAT THESE LEADERS AND OTHER LIKE- MINDED MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT COULD BE COUNTED ON TO KEEP A CLOSE REIN OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR QUOTE NEW LEFT UNQUOTE COLLEAGUES.

2. WESTERTERP MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT THE HAGUE BRIEFLY IN CONNECTION WITH HIS PLANNED TRIP TO EUROPE  
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LATER THIS YEAR ( IT WILL BE RECALLED IN HIS MEETING AT BRUSSELS AIRPORT WITH FORMER COMMERCE SECRETARY PETERSON LAST FEBRUARY WESTERTERP PROPOSED A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT). WESTERTERP SAID THAT THE NETHERLANDS RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS A SMALL COUNTRY IN POPULATION AND GEORGRAPHY.

NEVERTHELESS IT DID NOT WANT FOR THIS REASON TO BE GIVEN SECOND CLASS STATUS AMONG THE UNITED STATES' NATO ALLIES. IT WAS GALLING TO THE DUTCHMAN TO READ FREQUENTLY ABOUT HIGH LEVEL US CONTACTS WITH THE SO- CALLED BIGGER COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE. THE DUTCH YIELDED TO NONE IN THEIR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMON INTEREST OF THE NATO ALLIES. IF PRESIDENT NIXON AGAIN FAILED TO MAKE AT LEAST A STOPOVER IN THE NETHERLANDS DURING HIS NEXT EUROPEAN TRIP IT WOULD UNDERCUT DUTCH MOTIVATION TO MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT FOR THE COMMON CAUSE.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WESTERTERP WAS CAREFUL TO STATE THAT HE NO LONGER HAD ANY DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HIS EXPERIENCE, DRIVE AND BRAIN POWER WILL GIVE HIM AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN THE NEW CABINET. I HOPE THEREFORE THAT HIS VIEWS WILL BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY THOSE IN WASHINGTON RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING THE PRESIDENT' S TRIP TO WESTERN EUROPE.  
MIDDENDORF

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NMAFVVZCZ

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, NL, PINT  
**To:** BRUSSELS  
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